

June 29, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC -Today, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) announced that Mohawk Valley Community College will receive a \$2,778,237 Community-Based Job Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) to implement the Upstate New York Cybersecurity Training Initiative that will provide training for 2,090 people through a partnership of 5 colleges and local adult education providers. Thirty employers in the health care, financial information technology and manufacturing sectors who need cybersecurity professionals are partners in this project.

In May, Arcuri sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis in strong support of Mohawk Valley Community College's application for funding as part of \$125 million allocated through the USDOL's Community-Based Job Training Grant.

"With so many businesses and government agencies in Oneida County specializing in cybersecurity, there is a pressing need to prepare the local workforce with the training necessary for employment in this emerging industry," **said Arcuri**. "The project has assembled a broad regional partnership to help workers at all levels either advance their careers or start new careers. Through this training project, our region will have a skilled, trained workforce that can help attract more employers and more opportunities. Cyber security is more than financial and national security for our region-it's also about jobs and economic development."

"Cybersecurity is a sector with almost unlimited potential for our region, and we worked with a broad spectrum of partners to develop a project that would meet the needs of our employers and also help workers who have been affected by economic transitions make the change to a new career," **said MVCC President Randall Van Wagoner**. "For us at MVCC, this project takes our tradition of being the region's gateway to training and education in high-growth sectors into a very exciting and promising direction. We look forward to working with our educational, community and employer partners to use this project as a catalyst to help transform the lives of the people of our region. We thank Congressman Arcuri for his efforts on our behalf and his support of our region's cybersecurity sector."

The project will develop:

- A Fast Lane to Cybersecurity program to give dislocated workers, adults and disconnected youth the basic skills employers need so they can enter cybersecurity careers and move up existing and emerging career ladders;
- A Cyber Basics Program for adults who need updated math, science and technology training. This program connects trainees with IT positions, where they can find jobs and develop skills that lead to cybersecurity jobs;
- A sectoral skills development program to help workers in manufacturing, finance and other sectors shift career areas into the growth field of cybersecurity, using key short courses and their sectoral experience to move ahead; and,
- High-skills training to move existing entry-level workers into better-paying jobs by creating training scholarships that make it possible to afford needed training.

The partners include: Alion Science and Technology, Assured Information Security, AFL-CIO Workforce Development Institute, Bartell Machinery, Bassett Healthcare, Board of Cooperative Educational Services Consortium, Computer Clinic, Computer Connection, Defense Finance Accounting Service, ECR International, Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare, First Source Credit Union, Griffiss Institute, Herkimer County Community College, HMO Workforce Investment Board, Human Technologies, Indium Corporation, Leadership Mohawk Valley, Legacy Fiber Optics, Little Falls Hospital, Mattacola Law Firm, Med-Care Administrators, Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce, Mohawk Valley EDGE, Morrisville State College, National Grid, Oneida County, Oriskany Manufacturing, PAR Government Systems, Resource Center for Refugees, Rome Chamber of Commerce, Rome City Government, Rome Hospital, Rome Strip Steel, R-tronics, Sovena USA, SUNY Institute of Technology, The Printed Word, The Rowan Group, Upstate Cerebral Palsy, and Utica School of Commerce and Women's Business Center.

"This is an excellent project that will help transform our workforce to take the fullest possible advantage of the growth of our region's cybersecurity sector and the needs of employers for IT professionals with cybersecurity training," **said Alice Savino, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board**. "MVCC's partnerships with SUNY Institute of Technology, Herkimer County Community College, Morrisville State College, Utica School of Commerce and BOCES ensure that we can develop and implement a pathway of training options that will help a broad spectrum of workers. This is a major victory not only for MVCC but for all of our employers and job seekers across the region. Congressman Arcuri was a major supporter of this project, and we thank him for his efforts on our behalf."

Arcuri believes investing in cybersecurity is the Manhattan Project of our generation. Earlier this year, Arcuri successfully added an amendment to the Intelligence Authorization Act (H.R. 2701) that aims to strengthen U.S. cybersecurity capabilities through information sharing amongs appropriate federal agencies, setting up a preliminary framework for Administration and Congressional oversight to ensure the government's national cybersecurity programs are consistent with legal authorities and preserve individuals' reasonable expectations of privacy.

Additionally, Arcuri lead the Cyber Security Enhancement Act (H.R. 4061) to passage in the House, which requires the President to convene an industry-wide non-governmental taskforce of businesses and universities to explore potential public-private collaborations on cybersecurity research and development as well as increase opportunities to train future cybersecurity professionals.

Forty-one community colleges and organizations will be awarded a total of \$125 million to create opportunities for working Americans to train for high-demand occupations with the help of our national community college system. Community-Based Job Training Grants improve the ability of community colleges to train and prepare workers for employment in high growth and other emerging industries. This round of competitive awards will primarily focus on providing services to workers who are unemployed (this can include the long-term unemployed, such as individuals who have been unemployed for six months or more), dislocated, and incumbent workers.

###